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innovateNJ



COMMUNITY

We Want YOU! The [Application](#) for *innovateNJ* membership is now OPEN!

innovateNJ is New Jersey's initiative to support innovation and practice by fostering sharing and collaboration, cultivating projects, and convening practitioners and partners. Through your active participation as an *innovateNJ* member, the establishment of next-generation instructional practices as a standard within classrooms will promote and heighten the college and career readiness levels of our students.

The *innovateNJ* Fall 2014 Convening

Making Strides toward Increasing Access and Equity

The inaugural inductee Members and Thought Partners of *innovateNJ* have made great strides as active collaborators. Led by *innovateNJ* Member Springfield Superintendent Michael DaVino and Director of Instructional Technology Sharon Nagy-Johnson, the fall gathering was well coordinated and all inclusive. Members and Thought Partners arrived at the Springfield Public Schools host site excited and ready to

learn. Met at the Members and Thought Partners were presented by innovative student developed projects that ranged from Java coded games and student created anti-drug use public service announcements, to technologically simulated trips to Egypt!

A warm welcome and introduction of school district and NJDOE personnel was followed by a panel discussion which included students, teachers, and school building leaders. Students of

Springfield's Jonathan Dayton High School described for the audience the ways in which the use of innovative practices facilitated by their teachers has had a tremendous impact on them. Placing emphasis on how much they have grown, students led the conversation on school-based and personal projects that yield an invaluable return as they prepare for life beyond high school.

Computer Science Education Week Dec. 8-12 New Jersey celebrated Hour of Code.

The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. Anyone anywhere can organize an Hour of Code event.

[List of New Jersey Schools](#) participating in Hour of Code.

Share your videos and pictures of Hour of Code activities with our community by emailing us [innovateNJ](#)



PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHMENT

Serving as strategic partners with a school district representing a demographic significantly different from their own was the charge, and the members have shown that it can be done!

Several of our *innovateNJ* Community Members and Thought Partner school districts have begun to move forward in a significant way by working together to share, design, and implement innovative projects. The Springfield School District has partnered with both the Spotswood and Long Branch School Districts on a data-driven project that will track the progress of students by way of direct parental involvement strategies. The West Morris and Newark School Districts are working together on the design and implementation of online courses for staff members that will help them learn how to use innovative platforms. Westfield Public Schools and the Roselle Public School District have begun talking about developing their students as Digital Ambassadors! Join the *innovateNJ* Community and start your own partnership for the betterment of all students! <http://www.state.nj.us/education/innovateNJ/app/>





EdCampNJ is a Success with the Highest Turnout Ever

Linwood Middle School opened its doors again to host the annual EdCampNJ. The “un-conference” conference style at EdCampNJ afforded the opportunity for many to lead and participate in different educational sessions. Teachers throughout the state of New Jersey gathered Saturday in order to collaborate and share innovative ideas among themselves. November 22 turned out to have a record-

breaking attendance at the annual EdCampNJ. Over three hundred teachers attended this event geared toward learning and networking. There were over fifty different sessions on the board in minutes. Teachers were eager to lead numerous sessions: from the Dirty 30 Apps and Extensions to use in the schools and districts to Web Design for Teachers.

Teachers shared many innovative practices and initiatives which have already worked in their schools and districts. EdCampNJ ended with a SHARE OUT Smack-down Wrap Up session which included raffles. Several lucky people won prizes for their schools. Overall the event was a success, giving attendees the opportunity to interact in an informal setting, and share innovative practices.

To obtain more information regarding attending EdCampNJ
or view highlights from the event, visit:

[HTTP://WWW.EDCAMPNJ.ORG/](http://www.edcampnj.org/)

INNOVATE: BUDGETS AND HUMAN CAPITAL



Reevaluating how budget funds are allocated and utilized is just one of the many ways that New Jersey school district and building leaders are successfully integrating innovation as a common practice.

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Community members and Thought Partner school districts are also exploring ways to internally identify the talents and skills of their staff members and even their students as a means of maximizing on resources to achieve the goal of preparing our students for college and innovative careers.

Technology Standard 8.1

The New Jersey Department of Education has revamped its New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standard 8 which focuses on the use of technology in our classrooms. All educators should use Technology Standard 8 to help students learn how to develop digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaboratively. For more information about NJCCCS 8 click here: [Technology Standard 8](#)



Clearinghouse



Initiatives

#innovateNJ

Designed to connect innovative New Jersey districts with aspiring innovative districts, our innovative team comprising of NJ educators from the Pascack Valley, Randolph, West Morris, and Westfield school districts set out to inform our educators on a local and national level via the creation of *#innovateNJ*.

On Thursday November 20 @ 8:00pm the NJDOE *innovateNJ* community gathered via the use of a virtual chat forum. Using the hash tag *#innovateNJ*, topics such as the importance of teaching the proper use of devices to why collaborative communities of practice have positive impact were discussed. Members shared how they have been implementing innovative initiatives within their districts. The event was such a success that the community is planning another virtual gathering in the near future. Stay tuned...

Computer Science Education Week

Join hundreds of New Jersey educators as they incorporate innovative programs and practices within their classrooms during Computer Science Week. Beginning Monday, December 8 and running through December 14 educators around the world will launch next-generation instructional approaches to learning.

We urge you to send pictures and videos of innovative practices such as *Computer Science Education Week* and/or *Hour of Code* to innovation@doe.state.nj.us

